

California State Journal of Medicine.

Published Monthly by the

Medical Society of the State of California

Members of the Society are requested to promptly notify the publication office of change of address, in order that mailing list may be corrected. Secretaries of County Societies are also requested to notify the "Journal" of deaths, removals, etc., and send in names of new members and their postoffice address.

Communications on subjects of interest to the profession are invited. The "Journal" is not responsible for the views advanced by correspondents. Address letters relating to the "Journal" to the publication office, 31 Post Street, San Francisco.

Subscription price to non-members of California affiliated county medical societies, \$3.00 per year, in advance; single copies, 25 cents. Subscriptions may be sent to publication office, 31 Post St., San Francisco, or to the San Francisco News Co., 342 Geary St., or any of its agents.

OCTOBER, 1902.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The *New York Medical Journal*, in commenting editorially on the address in surgery of the British Medical Association, delivered by Mr. A. W. Mayo Robson, is pained **SURGICAL ENGLISH.** that certain flaws in the diction should have been permitted to creep in. "In St. Thomas's there was 1 ovariectomy, which died, and there were 14 herniotomies, of which 8 died." "Up to 1883 every case of intraperitoneal rupture of the bladder had died, but in that year Sir William MacCormac operated on and saved two lives." This is the same old thing that some of us have been fighting against for years. Beyond question, a case cannot die, nor can an operation meet with the same fate; it is equally absurd to speak of a life being operated upon. Yet these and worse errors are becoming so common that they almost cease to attract notice. This very journal, in the same issue, contains papers in which the misuse of "case," where patient is intended, occurs. There will soon have to be a recognized brand of English, probably called "Surgical English", in which the ordinary conventions of the language will be disregarded, men may talk of "operating this case", or "seeing this case in consultation", and commit the other abominations which seem to be borrowed from German syntax and may possibly be used as indicative of a more or less limited acquaintance with that country or its language.

The *Kentucky State Medical Association Bulletin* has been established as the official publication of the Association, and has **READING NOTICES.** reached its third issue. We are certainly glad to see another addition to the number of state association journals, for in time these publications will prob-

ably do away with a large number of the cheap and vile so-called "medical journals" that have come up all over the country and thrive on discreditable advertising. Many of these "journals" are owned, body and soul, by one or more nostrum manufacturers, and they are used to aid in debauching the minds of a certain percentage of physicians. It is not easy, unless one knows or has had much experience, to tell the sheep from the goats, and the "reading notice" giving a large sized endorsement of some nostrum may be as well written and read quite as entertainingly as a proper and scientific editorial in some other and reputable journal. A few new remedies are excellent, have an unquestioned value, and are such as to tempt one to occasionally speak a word of commendation. Yet these are comparatively few, whereas the great mass of preparations concerning which "reading notices" are published are either worthless or out and out nostrums, not fit for any man to use or prescribe. Because these things are true, all reputable medical journals, and especially the official publications of state medical societies, should absolutely refuse to print in their reading pages any sort of advertising matter—and the "reading notice" is advertising. The *Kentucky State Association Bulletin* contains a "reading notice," and without in any way reflecting upon the value or the worthlessness of the thing so advertised, we do not like to see it. We certainly cannot ask private journals, operated for profit, to "please be good", when the official publications of medical societies commit the offences which the medical profession desires to have corrected.

The poor W. C. T. U. has had another spasm, due to a severe shock to its sense (?) of propriety. The lovely old ladies who **ANOTHER SPASM.** cannot reason logically are decidedly opposed to letting the West Point cadets smoke; perhaps it is feared the cadets' brains will not develop beyond the caliber of the W. C. T. U.; perhaps there is some other reason. They managed to have an order passed prohibiting smoking by cadets. But when the question was investigated, the officials at West Point had the order rescinded, on the very just ground that the cadets would smoke anyhow, and that it was better for them to smoke pipes and cigars openly than to be led into breaking rules and smoking cigarettes secretly. A law that can not be enforced is a harmful law, for it teaches disobedience. We all know that sumptuary laws are more commonly honored in the breach than in the performance, and most of us would be quite sure that a non-smoking rule at West Point could not be enforced in the slightest degree. The increase of drunkenness following the abolition of the army canteen is well known to

Excellent Suggestion.

Santa Ana, Cal., Sept. 11, 1903.

To the Editor of the State Journal—Replying to yours of the 10th will say that Dr. Ball, one of our Society members said yesterday that if we could secure a complete file of the JOURNAL he would contribute the binding of the first volume and suggested that I send a report of each meeting in order that it might become a history of the Society and be placed in the library. If you will kindly send us the complete file we will see that each volume is bound and kept in the library.

Respectfully yours,
H. S. GORDON,
Secretary.

(Note.—This is an excellent suggestion and one that should receive the careful consideration of all county societies. The JOURNAL should be the printed history not only of the State Society, but also of each of the component county societies. This it will be just as soon as each and every county society sees to it that some one member, either the secretary or someone else, looks after the work of sending in to the JOURNAL reports of the county society meetings, and all news and matter relative to county happenings.—Ed.)

County Society Reports.

To the Editor of the State Journal. Sir: If the Publication Committee still declines to publish our reply to the Resolutions passed by the Santa Clara County Medical Society, kindly return our paper by bearer. We do not feel that a shorter or less specific reply will compensate for this unjust attack and shall be compelled to seek redress through other channels.

We shall be pleased to have you publish this letter in your October issue. It will serve to show the profession that we do not intend to remain quiet under these charges.

Yours truly,
D. A. HODGHEAD,
W. F. SOUTHARD.

In the September issue of the JOURNAL appeared the report of the August meeting of the Santa Clara County Medical Society. It was printed for the reason that the Publication Committee has, from the first, declared that, in its opinion, one of the principal reasons for the existence of a State Journal was that the reports of all county societies might be published and become matters of record. If the JOURNAL does not exist for that purpose more than for any other, we are profoundly mistaken. At the meeting referred to certain resolutions were passed anent a suit against the Board of Medical Examiners. These resolutions contained matter reflecting upon the motives actuating those bringing the suit and upon those connected with a medical school in San Francisco. The gentlemen in question prepared a statement in reply and sent it to the JOURNAL, requesting that it be published. The editor declined to assume responsibility in the matter and referred it to all the members of the Publication Committee who could be reached immediately. These members, without exception, decided that the matter as sent in should not have space in the JOURNAL for the

following reasons: 1st, The report of the county society was a matter of formal business of a component society and its publication was proper; 2d, the reply sent in was a personal communication in which a personal attack upon a member of the society was made, and an intemperate attack upon the Society itself was included; 3rd, that such being the case, it was decidedly and extremely controversial, and we are proscribed from entering into matters controversial. The editor offered to assume the responsibility of publishing in this issue a general letter of denial addressed to the county society and not to the JOURNAL, (for the JOURNAL had made no arraignment) which should be free from all matters of a personal nature and all attack upon the State Society. This offer was not accepted by these gentlemen, hence the Committee feels that this explanation is due the members of the Society. Personal communications containing matters controversial (except for discussion of scientific questions), will not be published in the JOURNAL.—Ed.

PERSONAL MENTION.

Dr. August Pohlman has been appointed assistant professor of anatomy at the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. O. C. Fitzgerald of Los Angeles, who has been very ill for some months, is able to return to his office.

Dr. W. A. Taylor and Dr. William F. Blake were recently elected members of the Santa Barbara County Medical Society.

Drs. W. R. Davis, J. B. Thomas, C. W. Hack, G. S. Wallace and F. Du Bois of the Army, have returned from service in the Philippines.

Dr. John G. Curtis, professor of physiology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, has been elected acting dean of the college.

The following named physicians have become members of the Santa Clara County Medical Society: J. U. Hall, T. A. Perrin, J. D. Grissim, R. A. Whiffin, Paul Sanford, F. H. Paterson, L. V. Saph, M. S. Silva, E. I. Filippello, I. N. Frasse.

Dr. Joseph Marshall Flint, professor of anatomy at the University of California, and Miss Anne Apperson, niece of Mrs. Phebe Hearst, were married on September 15 at the summer residence of Mrs. Hearst, Hacienda del Pozo de Verona, near Pleasanton.

Dr. E. W. Scripture, assistant professor of experimental psychology at Yale University, has resigned and is succeeded by Dr. Charles H. Judd, A. B. (Wesleyan), Ph.D. (Leipzig). Dr. Scripture is spending the year at Leipzig, where he is carrying on researches on the analysis of speech by means of gramophone records under the auspices of the Carnegie Institution.

Recent removals: Dr. A. H. Taylor and Dr. George B. Somers, from 123 Ellis to 606 Sutter Street; Dr. G. H. Boskiwitz, from 1106 Post to 1220 Sutter; Dr. W. P. Willard, from 1805 Fillmore to 1207 Sutter; Dr. E. W. Thomas, from 417 to 439 Third; Dr. Philip King Brown, from 1303 to 1612 Van Ness Ave.; Dr. Kate I. Howard, from 590 Sutter to 1600 Fell; Dr. A. B. Grosse, from 2124 Post to 803 Sutter; Dr. Louis A. Kengla, from 1121 to 1220 Sutter; Dr. Emmet Rixford, from 1400 Van Ness to 1795 California, San Francisco.